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URBAN DISTRICT OF EPPING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937

URBAN DISTRICT OF EPPING

MEDICAL AND SANITARY OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health ...	Dr. H. A. Watney, M.B., B.S.,
Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic ...	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector	Mr. H. J. Mead, M.S.I.A.
Meat and Food Inspector ...	
Heath Visitor	Miss Sarah Myers.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Year ended 31st December, 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Epping.

Madam and Gentlemen.

The following report summarises the general health of the district and contains particulars of births and deaths, the zymotic and other notifiable diseases, and of sanitary work carried out during the year 1937.

SECTION A.

(i) GENERAL STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of District	1,486 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident Population (mid-1937)	5,770
Number of inhabited houses	1,673
Rateable value on 31st December, 1937 ...	£34,449
Produce of a penny rate	£130

The major portion of the district is meadow land. There are no factories, the chief occupation being Agriculture. An iron foundry employs 100 men and a laundry 60 hands.

The rate of unemployment in the district is very low.

(ii) VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:—

	Total.	M.	F.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—16.4.
(Legitimate) ...	95	57	38	
(Illegitimate) ...	0	0	0	

Stillbirths:—

	Total.	M.	F.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—
(Legitimate) ...	3	2	1	30.6.
(Illegitimate) ...	0	0	0	
Total Births ...	98	59	39	
Deaths ...	55	24	31	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population—9.5.

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

Puerperal sepsis ...	...	0	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—
Other puerperal causes ...	...	0	
Total ...	...	0	0.

Deaths of Infants under one year:—

	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	0	2
Illegitimate ...	0	0
Total ...	0	2

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	21.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 leg. live births ...	21.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illeg. live births ...	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	0

Deaths at various ages during 1937:—

Age.	Number of Deaths.
Under 1 year ...	2
1 and under 2 ...	0
2 „ „ 5 ...	0
5 „ „ 15 ...	0
15 „ „ 25 ...	0
25 „ „ 35 ...	4
35 „ „ 45 ...	4
45 „ „ 55 ...	3
55 „ „ 65 ...	7
65 „ „ 75 ...	12
75 and upwards ...	23
Total deaths ...	55

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937	England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns
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(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's & Greater Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminiistrative County	Epping Urban District
Rates per 1,000 population					
BIRTHS:—					
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3	16.4
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	.52
DEATHS:—					
All Causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3	9.5
Typhoid and Paraty- phoid fevers	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.00
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.18
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.52
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51	0.86
NOTIFICATIONS:—					
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Scarlet fever	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09	2.6
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93	0.18
Enteric fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.18
Erysipelas	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44	0.18
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18	2.7
Rate per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60	21
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0	—
MATERNAL MORTALITY:					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.97	Not available			0
Others	2.26				
Total	3.23				
Rate per 1,000 total births (i.e., live and still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY:					
Puerperal Sepsis	3.11	Not available			0
Others	0.94				
Total	2.17				
NOTIFICATIONS:—					
Puerperal fever	13.93	17.59	11.52	4.15	0
Puerperal pyrexia				14.34	0

There is nothing specially to report as to infectious diseases during the year.

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever throughout the year and 16 cases of Pneumonia.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(i) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Counties' Public Health Laboratory undertakes all necessary examinations. Water, milk and foodstuffs are examined under special arrangements.

Specimens examined during the year:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	103
Typhoid	...	...	...	8
Sputa	...	...	...	68
Ringworm	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	45
Milk	...	...	...	8
Water	...	...	...	2
Sewage	...	...	...	1

Total 236

225

(ii) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases are removed by special ambulance to Waltham Abbey.

(b) Non-infectious and accident cases.—A private ambulance situated in the town is now available at all hours of the day and night and has given very valuable service.

(c) Maternity Patients.—There is no Maternity Home in the district. The County has special accommodation at Chelmsford and arranges for removals. The ambulance service is now satisfactory.

(iii) NURSING FACILITIES.

(a) Two resident Nurses and Midwives (E.C. Nursing Association).

(b) Infectious Diseases.—There is no Hospital for Infectious Diseases in the District. Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria and any other cases sent in by M.O.H. are sent to the Joint Hospital at Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey. The accommodation is very good and treatment has been satisfactory.

(iv) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

E.C.C. School Clinic. Treatment Centre—Regent Road, Tuesdays 9.30 to 11 a.m. Tuberculosis Clinic, Treatment Centre—Regent Road, each Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. E.C.C. Orthopædic Clinic, Treatment Centre—Regent Road, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

(v) HOSPITALS.

Epping Cottage Hospital—11 beds. Voluntary. No subsidy. Epping Public Assistance Institution—100 beds—for infirm and maternity cases. Waltham Joint Hospital Board's Hospital at Waltham Abbey for Infectious Diseases. There is no hospital or home for Maternity cases, and the lack of this service is increasingly felt.

The Hospital accommodation for medical and surgical cases is adequate for the district. The Cottage Hospital is well equipped and up-to-date, the operating theatre and X-ray equipment being very good.

(vi) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Centre is well patronised and is progressing. During the year the attendances were as follows:—

Sessions—51.

Number of children under 1 year	...	1,984
Number of children from 2—5	...	1,495

No antenatal work is done at the Centre. Orthopædic treatment is provided for those needing it.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) **Water.**—Herts and Essex Water Company, Sawbridge-worth. The supply has been satisfactory in quantity, but the colour is not always good. This has been ascertained to be due to metallic deposit from the pipes. An analysis made shows that this colouring is non-injurious to consumers.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—As reported last year, two new and up-to-date works have been constructed to deal with the sewage from each side of the town. The Northern Outfall has always proved to be entirely satisfactory, and the Southern Outfall, too, is now working very well, the trouble referred to in last year's Report having now been remedied.

(iii) **Schools.**—The Central School and the enlarged Council Schools are in perfect sanitary condition. Water supply good.

(iv) **Public Cleansing.**—Dry refuse is collected weekly in the Council's own covered lorry. Disposal is carried out at the Southern Outfall on the Bradford System, which is still proving satisfactory.

(v) **Closet Accommodation.**—All new and nearly all the old houses are on the sewer.

(vi) **Public Convenience.**—As was anticipated, the Convenience recently erected at Clark's Lane is proving satisfactory. There is, however, still periodical damage to the fittings caused by destructive and thoughtless members of the public.

(vii) **Smoke Abatement.**—There have been no complaints from this source during the year.

(viii) **Swimming Baths.**—There are no swimming baths in the Urban District.

(ix) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—No serious cases of Bed Bug infestation were reported during the year.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

1.—NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	0
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	21
Total				21

2.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 3. | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | nil |
| 4. | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 17 |

3.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	7
--	---

4.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(A) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 10 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| | (a) By owners | 10 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | nil |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| | (a) By owners | nil |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | nil |

(C) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | nil |

(D) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | nil |

5.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

(A)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 6 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | 6 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | 39½ |

(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year nil

(C)

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 4 |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... | 28 |

(D) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding nil

During the past year the Slum Clearance Programme has been steadily worked upon. Three more Areas were made the subject of Clearance Orders as a result of Public Inquiries held by the Ministry of Health, viz., High Street Area No. 1 (10 Houses), High Street Area No. 2 (Battles Hoppit—3 Houses), and Coopersale Common Area (5 Houses).

In the case of the Coopersale Street Area (Adelaide Cottages) a scheme of re-conditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, was submitted on behalf of the owners. The proposals were approved by this Council, the Essex County Council and the Ministry of Health.

A site upon which to erect new houses for the persons displaced under the above schemes and also certain of the Overcrowded cases, has been acquired at Sunnyside Road, and work upon the erection of sixteen houses of various types is now well in hand.

SECTION E.—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat.—There are now six Slaughterhouses at which killing is regularly carried on. Every effort is made by the Inspector to be present at the time of killing or as soon after as possible to ensure that proper inspection is carried out.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	401	Nil	24	1630	1201
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	Nil	Nil	12	4
Percentage of the number inspected af- fected with disease other than tuber- culosis.	5·23	—	—	·79	·41
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses con- demned	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	Nil	Nil	34
Percentage of the number inspected af- fected with tuber- culosis	1·49	—	4·16	—	·299

Milk.—The bulk of the milk supply comes from local farms and dairies, the largest of which is in our own district, with several smaller suppliers just outside. Sterilized and Pasteurized milk in bottles only is brought from London by the London Co-operative Society.

During the year thirty-one inspections of the farms in this district were made, but in no case was it found necessary to take formal proceedings. Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination in an endeavour to trace the presence of any dirt or disease, continue to be very satisfactory.

Milk in Schools Scheme.—The Government's scheme for the provision of cheap milk to school children is now in full working order in the district. Any child may obtain one third of a pint of milk daily upon payment of a halfpenny, and the percentage of children availing themselves of the scheme is as high as 80 amongst the children up to about 10 years of age, but naturally somewhat lower amongst the older boys and girls. Free milk is supplied to those children whose parents are not in a position to pay even the low price charged.

The milk is supplied by one of our own producers and samples are taken regularly by officers of the County Council. They in turn forward to this Council copies of the Analyst's reports upon such samples which have always been most satisfactory.

Bakehouses, fried fish shops and other food premises are also regularly inspected, and in no instance during the last year was a formal notice required to secure the carrying out of any work considered necessary by the Council's Inspector.

Camping Grounds.—In accordance with the powers conferred by the Essex County Council Act, 1933, Byelaws for securing the proper control and management of Camping Grounds have been adopted by the Council. Copies of the Byelaws were left with all owners of Camping Grounds, and subsequent visits to Camps did not reveal any infringements thereof.

Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises.—Byelaws under the Essex County Council Act have also been adopted for the purpose of securing cleanliness in Hairdressers' and Barbers' premises. Existing premises and methods are in conformity with the Byelaws and no action other than regular inspection has been found necessary.

Shops Act, 1935.—Many inspections have been carried out and in most cases it was found that the local businesses are run entirely by members of the family or with only one assistant to whom is available the facilities of the residential part of the shop. In other cases the inspections have resulted in the installation of flushing closets and increased cleanliness in water closet apartments, and the provision of heating apparatus in shops where hitherto none was provided.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications received during the year:—

				Total.	Sent to Hospital.
Smallpox	...	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever		...	...	15	14
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia				0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	0
Paratyphoid Fever	...		...	1	1
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	53	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	16	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...								
1— ...								
5— ...								
15— ...		1						
25— ...		1						
35— ...								
45— ...								
55— ...								
65 and upwards ...								
Totals ...		2						

SECTION G.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisance.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES ... (including Factory Laundries)	5	—	—
WORKSHOPS ... (including Work-shop Laundries)	17	—	—
WORKPLACES ... (other than Out-workers' premises)	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	22	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	+
Other nuisances	—			
Sanitary accommodation } insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	—	—		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to out-work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	1	1	—	—

* Includes those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

H. A. WATNEY,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Eng.).
M.B., B.S. (Lond.).

13th June, 1938.

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